BATEMAN'S TRAGEDY;

OR, THE

Perjured BRIDE justly rewarded:

BEING THE

HISTORY

OF THE

UNFORTUNATE LOVE

OF

German's Wife and young *Bateman.*

NEWCASTLE: Printed in 1783.

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WE FIND that solemn Vows and Promises are of great Weight, and strictly binding, by the severe No[t]ice God has taken of those that have violated [t]hem, in punishing the Dishonour done to his [N]ame, by various and fearful Judgments; [a]nd that People may be more careful for

the Future not to make any Vows or ſolem
Promiſes they are prone to break, or in
tend not to keep: I ſhall inſtance one di
mal Example of God's Anger in this Kind
in ſo dreadful Manner, that all *England* ha
not only heard it with Admiration, but ſtoo
aſtoniſhed at it.

James Bateman, Son to a Gentleman o
Nottinghamſhire, a Perſon well educated, bu
(by his Father's too much Liberality) of n
great Fortune, riding one Day through *Clift*
Town, a few Miles from *Nottingham*, hap
pened to caſt his eyes on a very comely Mai
who was ſtanding at the Door of a ſeeml
Houſe, with whoſe innocent Looks and pret
Features, he was, all on a Sudden ſo taken
that he could not but make a full Stop t
gaze at her. The Maiden no ſooner perceive
his Eyes were earneſtly fixed on her, bu
colouring her Face with a roſy Buſh, ſh
modeſtly retires, no leſs ſurprized with hi
comely Perſonage, than he was with her ſwe
charming Beauty; however, this being th
firſt Time they had ſeen each other, neithe
had the Courage to make any advances, bu
he paſſed on about his affairs to a Tow
Fifteen Miles beyond that, but in a Manne
without a Heart, for he had left that (as L
vers term it) with his fair Miſtreſs.

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All the way he rode, his thoughts were ſtrangely confuſed, ſo that he laboured to compoſe them, but in vain; he found now, though he had formerly made a Jeſt of Love, and laughed at his Companions for declaring their Paſſions, that he was taken in that Net he had perſuaded others ſo often to break, and that the more he ſtruggled, the faſter he found himſelf entangled: The Buſineſs he went about was minded but little, and his Sighs and Reſtleſsneſs made his Friends conclude him in much Diſorder; yet, he cunningly concealed the Cauſe from them, who little ſuſpected it conſidering his former freeneſs of Temper and airy Courſe of living, that Love could be any Ingredient in this ſudden Alteration; ſo that finding however, the Contagion had ſeized the Mind more than the Body, they concluded it might proceed from the Decay of his Fortune; whereupon, that he might not be dejected, they proffered him their Aſſiſtance and Service in any Thing that he would command them. Whilſt theſe Things paſſed, he was urgent to return Home, and did ſo, enquiring by the Way who this fair Maid was. and the Condition of her Parents, and found ſhe was Daughter to a very covetous old rich Farmer, who had refuſed many conſiderable Matches, in hopes to prefer her higher by the Means of her Beauty,

and the many Bags he intended to bestow upon her as a Portion: and further, that he kept a very ſtrict Hand over her to prevent her being ſtolen away. This ſtruck him almoſt with the Horrors of Deſpair; yet ſomething he reſolved to do, but what at preſent he could not frame in his Mind; and ſo Home he went, to conſider prudently how to manage his Love Affair, that at the firſt he might not, by an over raſh Addreſs, daſh all his future Hopes of Happineſs: In contriving which, we will leave him a while, to conſider the Condition wherein he left the fair *Iſabella*, the Farmer's Daughter.

CHAP. II.

How the fair Iſabella *fell ſick of Love for* Bateman, *though a Stranger, and his Abode unknown to her; and how, when ſhe was given over, he came in the Habit of a Phyſician, diſcovered himſelf to her and ſhe recovered by that Means her Health, to the unſpeakable Joy of her Parents.*

THIS beauteous Maid, who, though often courted, had ſtood Proof againſt the Sighs, Tears, and Intreats, of many handſome young Batchelors, found now ſhe

ſtood

ood in need of Pity herſelf, *Bateman*'s Idea as ſo fixed in her Mind, that ſleeping or aking ſhe fancied him always in her Sight; e made private Enquiries, by the Deſcripon ſhe gave of him, but not any ſhe conerſed with could ſatisfy her in that Particur, ſome gueſſing at one, and ſome at anoher, as their Fancies led them; ſo that ove ſtill blowing the hidden Fire, ſhe firſt rew regardleſs of the Domeſtic Affairs of hich her Father and Mother had made her verſeer; then her Appetite failed, and, afr that, ſhe fell into a languiſhing Diſeaſe, hich cauſed great heavineſs in the Family: hyſicians were ſent for to adviſe withal, but l their Skill proved ineffectual; for, accordg to the old Proverb,

Where Love's in the Caſe,
The Doctor's an Aſs.

o that the Father and Mother fearing to ſe their only Daughter, whom they doted n, and prized above all the valuable Things the World, were in a Manner at their Wits nd, wringing their Hands, and ſhedding any woful Tears.

Whilſt they were in this pitious Plight, nd the ſighing Maiden concealed the inward lame, that conſumed her Health, and waſted

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ed her Spirits, one, in the Habit of a Phyſi-
cian, mounted on a ſtately Steed, came rid-
ing to the Gate, and deſired to ſpeak with
Mr *Gifford*, for that was the Father's Name.
The old Man quickly came to him, with a
heavy Countenance, and the Marks of Tears
on his aged Cheeks, demanding what brought
him to ſo ſorrowful a Place, and what he re-
quired? "Truly, Sir," ſays he, "I came out
of Compaſſion to the Affliction of your Family,
for being at an Inn in the Town, and hearing
your Daughter was ſick, who is your only
Delight and Darling, and whoſe Death might
bring you untimely to your Grave, diver
Phyſicians having uſed their Skill in vain;
you will accept of my Advice, and ſhe be wil-
ling to take what I ſhall direct, I doubt not
but by the Bleſſing of God, upon my many
Years Study in Phyſic, and Travels in diver
Countries, ſo order Things that her Health
will be reſtored in a few Days."

The Father, on this unexpected Viſit from
a Stranger, concluded it was ſome good Angel
directed to him by a wonderful Providence,
ſcarcely refrained from falling on his Knees,
or able to ſpeak for Joy; but after a little
Recovery from this Kind of Tranſport, he
invited him, in a loving Manner: and,
this new Doctor had deſired, ordered all
the

liers out of the Chamber: The Love-ſick Maid no ſooner fixed her Eyes on him, but ſhe knew him, and fetching a deep Sigh, fainted away; but he revived her with ſome Cordials that he brought, ſo that recovering her Senſes, her Bluſhes overcame her Paleneſs, and made a very ſtrage Alteration in her Countenance.

To be brief, he having before gueſſed at, and being now fully aſſured of the cauſe of her Diſtemper, told her the End of his coming in that Diſguiſe, intreated her to cheer up, and pouring out his paſſionate Love Expreſſions, mingled with Tears, to ſee her in ſuch a low Condition; that at laſt they ſo well underſtood one another's Mind, that having made a few Viſits to her for four or five Days, and ordered her ſuch Things as are proper to reſtore decayed Nature, her Health returned, and the Roſes flouriſhed again in her Cheeks, to Wonder and Admiration; at which, the Father overjoyed, embraced this ſeeming Phyſician, and offered him a Handful of Gold; but he refuſed, only deſiring Leave to viſit him, as he happened to paſs by his Houſe on Occaſions; and ſo at this Time they parted, with high Satisfaction on all Hands, eſpecially of the young Couple.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

How being invited to her Father's Houſe, he walked Abroad with her, and diſcovered his Paſſion to her at large: Of the Encouragement he found to proceed in his Suit, and the Proſpect there was of a happy Marriage between them.

YOUNG *Bateman*, having thus, as he thought, made a thorough Step to his future Happineſs, went Home filled with Joy, but delayed not long to reviſit his lovely Patient in the ſame Habit, taking an Opportunity after Dinner, to walk with her in the Garden; where after a turn or two, ſitting down in a pleaſant ſhady Bower, they began to talk of Love, and of the laſt Adventure, devouring each other in a Manner with their eager Looks, kiſſing and uſing all the Modeſt Freedom that Lovers, whoſe Hearts were ſo united and enflamed, could wiſh or deſire; and after ſome interrupting Sighs had paſſed, clapping his Arms about her ſnowy Neck, *Ah! lovely* Iſabella, cries he, *how bleſſed am I to have this Opportunity to tell you how much and how dearly I love you; you are the only Jewel in Nature that I prize; and could I but*

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e poſſeſſed of your lovely Self, I ſhould think myſelf the happieſt of all Mankind.

At this turning her Eyes with Lovelineſs on him, and bluſhing with Virgin Grace, ſhe told him, that ſince he had been ſo kind to come timely and ſave her Life, ſhe thought ſhe could do no leſs than recompenſe him in any lawful and reaſonable Way he could deſire; for tho' many courted her, ſhe was engaged to none.

Upon this Encouragement, he preſſing her further, and vowing eternal Love and Conſtancy, ſhe not only ſeemed by her kind Glances, and ſuffering him with Willingneſs to lay his Head in her Boſom, to give her Conſent to a ſpeedy Marriage, but likewiſe told him, *That this being the firſt Time he had aſk'd her, it was but all the Reaſon in the World, for Virgin Modeſty, and a Compliance with Cuſtom, that he ſhould give her ſome Time to conſider of ſo weighty a Matter, which ſhould, as ſhe aſſured him, turn no ways to his prejudice: For* (continued ſhe) *my Obedience to my Parents, that yet I never diſobeyed, muſt be continued; they muſt know your pretentions: ſeveral very nice and likely Men court me at preſent, yet fear not my Good-liking.*

This ſo over-joyed young Bateman, that he would immediately have gone to her Parents, and

and asked that Jewel of them, whose precious Life they could not but conclude, he, next to Heaven, had saved and continued to them; but she opposed it, saying, *She would prepare the Way herself; and therefore the next Visit he paid, it would prove new to them, and consequently more welcome.* So, rising from their Seats, they went into the House where a splendid Treat was provided, and they sat over against each other at the Table feeding on Love with their Eyes with greater Contentment than on the Dainties; but Supper ended, and night coming on, Bateman took his Leave; when at parting the old Farmer invited him to a public Entertainment, that was to be at his House the third Day following, which he accepted of, and for that Time they parted.

CHAP. IV.

How he came in his proper Garb, and with he asked her Father's Consent; but for want of an Estate, was refused. How one German *who was his Rival, attempted to kill him but was wounded by him; and how he made his Escape,* &c.

I Shall not trouble you with the Thought and Impatiency of the young Lovers, du

ing the Intervene, but tell you this Feaſt was made principally to entertain a Gentleman, whoſe Grandfather, a little before dying, had left him a great Eſtate, and whoſe Affections were ſtrongly placed on the fair Virgin, ſo that he had courted her long; but ſhe ſeemed little to regard his Addreſſes: However, the Father and Mother, charmed with the Deſire of a rich Match for their Daughter, liſtened to it; and had often by perſuaſions, and ſometimes by threatnings, deſired and commanded her Compliance; but ſhe with as much Tenderneſs, and beſeeching as often, excuſed it, proteſting her liking to a ſingle Life, and entreating them they would not compel her to any Thing againſt her Inclination.

The Day being come, the Gueſts met, and young Bateman reſolved now to puſh on his Suit, in his own proper Garb, came very bravely attired in the habit of a Gentleman. The Entertainment was very ſplendid, Sea, Earth, and Air, contributed their Stores to furniſh out the Table with all Manner of Dainties, as Fiſh, Fleſh, Fowl, Fruits, &c. nor was Muſic, or any Thing requiſite wanting: But that which daſhed part of the Merriment, was, that fair Iſabella, placing herſelf over againſt Bateman, the other Lover, whoſe Name was German, and by his Years

and

and Observations in Love Intrigues, understanding the Language of their Eyes, in their often Gazings, the Blushes coming and going in his Mistress's Face, and many other Signs that *Cupid* has lively painted perspicuous to Lovers, his Fancy hit upon the Truth, *viz.* That they were deeply in Love with each other: Whereupon his Countenance changes to a sullen and melancholy; and, throwing by what was before him, he abruptly retires from the Table, ordering his Servant to make ready his Horse in order to be gone.

The Father and Mother were startled at this, and knew not what should be the Occasion of so sudden an Alteration, in a Person who had professed so much Love to their Daughter, and on whom he resolved to bestow her; and thereupon followed him into a private Room, to be better satisfied in the Cause of his Disaster, or Discontent, and was soon satisfied in it: Whereupon, taking his Daughter aside, he told her what had been suggested by German. To which she modestly replied, *Seeing the Gentleman had saved her Life, when others had failed, she thought in Conscience she could do no less than give him her Love in Requital, and was resolved, if ever she married, to be his Wife.* This startled the old Man more and more, and Bateman mistrusting what had happened, coming in the

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Interim, and being demanded by the Father, if he made Love to his Daughter, boldly owned it, and desired his Consent to have her in Marriage.

How! says the old Man, you that are a stranger make love to my Daughter, without my knowledge? You may, for all your fine Gewgaws, be a Beggar for ought I know: I intend to give her a great Fortune, and therefore resolve to have her married to one that can settle a good jointure on her: pray what estate have you?

Truly, replied, Bateman, I am rich in Love towards her, but for Estate I cannot boast of much: I was born a Gentleman, but without the Fortune to maintain it; my Parents were unfortunate and left me but little, yet I hope at little, with your Blessing and our love, will woo Providence to be so kind, that our Endeavours may not fail to make us happy, and you not repine to give me this fair Creature to be my Wife.

Upon this, he was going to take her by the Hand, and seal his Love with a Kiss; but the old Dad stept between them, in an angry Manner, crying, Pow, pow; stand off, Sir; a Gentleman without an estate, is like a Pudding without fat; you have indeed done my

Daughter a Kindneſs in recovering her Health, but for having her to your Wife, I muſt beg your Pardon, ſhe is Meat for your Betters,

Upon this *Bateman*'s Anger began to ariſe into ſome little Reproaches; but whilſt he was upbraiding his expected Father's Ingratitude, in ruſhes *German*, who had heard in the next Room what had paſſed, with his drawn Sword, and made a full Puſh at him, but he nimbly put it aſide, and drawing, wounded him in the Breaſt, whereupon he fell dead to the Ground; and thereupon *Bateman* was forced to make his Eſcape, to gain Time for further Conſideration of what was to be done.

CHAP. V.

How, being baniſhed her Father's Houſe, his lovely Miſtreſs, upon ſending a Letter, came to him in Diſguiſe, in a neighbouring Wood, and there they ſealed there Love, by ſolemn Vows, and breaking a Piece of Gold betwixt them.

FAIR *Iſabella* on this unexpected Account being left in Tears, as well as the Reſt of the Family in Fear and Confuſion, Surgeons were ſent for, who, upon ſearching the wound gave

ave Hopes of their Patient's Recovery; yet *Bateman*, fearing the worſt, abſented himſelf om his dwelling, and got, one Evening, a avelling Pedlar, for a good Reward, to de- ver a letter to his Miſtreſs, which he did, nder the Colour of coming to her Father's louſe to Proffer his Wares; which was to ntreat her, if ſhe had any Pity on the Suf- rings of an unfortunate Man, not only to rgive what he did in defence of his own ife, but to meet in a neighbouring Wood t ſuch an Hour.

She had no ſooner read it, but, reſolving anſwer his Deſire, ſhe eſcaped in the Diſ- uiſe of a Milk-maid, dreſſing herſelf with e Maid's Apparel. When they met ('tis in ain for us to go about to deſcribe the Rap- ures of Joy that was between them) ſhe gave im an Account of all that had happened, and ow *German* was likely to recover: But long ey dwelt not on this Theme, before they ll to that of Love, renewing their Vows of ternal Love and Conſtancy, that nothing ut Death ſhould be able to ſeparate them; nd, to blind it, he broke a Piece of Gold, ving her the one half, and keeping the other mſelf; and then with Tears and tender Kiſ- they parted. She at the Farewell, which oved a ſad one, entreated him to travel a

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few weeks, and give her Notice where
was, ſecretly, and ſhe would ſend him W
as to the Recovery or Danger of his Ri
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THE beauteous Virgin, during her
ſence, having been miſſed at home,
much enquired after, at her Return, by
ſon of the Unreaſonableneſs of the Time,
ſuſpected of what had happened; and al
ſhe modeſtly denied it, ſhe was confined
her Chamber, and an old Nurſe ſet upon
as a Guard; ſo that *Bateman*'s Letters
Intercepted, and ſhe loſt the Opportunit
writing to him. In the mean While *Ger*
was recovered, and admitted to court
whoſe Addreſſes ſhe for a long Time reſi
but at laſt, *Oh, the inconſtancy of Wo*
notwithſtanding the Vows to be *Baten*

ive or dead, and many other Proteſtations, e Glittering of the Miſer's Gold, the Per-ations and Threats of her Father, and her lother's Tears, with fine Treats and rich reſents, prevailed with her to alter her Mind, nd by the Inſtigation of theſe three to write *Bateman* a Letter, wherein ſhe deteſted his ove; which, however, ſhe could not do ithout blotting the Paper with Tears, and reat Reluctancy of Mind.

This Letter found him many miles off a unting; but upon reading it his Spirits were aſhed, and a Chill ſtruck to his Heart: How-ver, tho' he knew her Hand, he flattered imſelf in believing it was to puniſh him for is ſo long Abſence, or that ſhe was com-elled to do it; but fearing the worſt, he alled the next Morning to *Clifton*, and hear-ng the Bells ringing merrily, his Heart miſ-gave him: However, he had the courage to nquire the Cauſe, which proved a fatal one.

That Morning he was informed ſhe was married to his Rival; then in a Rage he be-gan to curſe his Stars, and all Womankind. Oft he thought to fall on his Sword, but hen Deſire of Revenge interpoſed, not to fall alone, but to ſacrifice the Bridegroom, nd then himſelf. After ſome milder Reſo-

lutions

lutions came into his Mind, that he in this should give Cauſe of Grief to his Miſtreſs; yet, to let her know his Reſentment, he ſent her a Letter with the Half Piece of Gold in it, which found her at Dinner, and made her be taken away ſick from the Table; However ſhe was comforted with Cordials, the Joy of a Bridal-night, riding in a Coach, and great Eſtate, paſſed it over, and to Bed they went when Night came.

Bateman, receiving no Anſwer, took it as a farther Slight, and ſo entreating on a deſperate Reſolve, he ſtole into the Houſe privately, knowing the Way, and hiding himſelf in a Cloſet by the Bridal Chamber-door, hanged himſelf before the Door, where he was found to their great Horror and Amazement, upon opening the Door next morning, with this Diſtich on his Breaſt:

False Woman! of thy Vows and Oaths have dread,
For thou art mine by them, alive or dead.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

How, upon Bateman's *hanging himſelf before her Chamber-door, ſhe grew melancholy, always fancying ſhe ſaw him with a ghoſtly Face, putting her in Mind of her broken Vows, and how, after being delivered of a Child, a Spirit carried her away.*

THIS not only diſcompoſed the Mirth of the Wedding, and made the Bride exceeding melancholy, but the enſuing Night dreadful Cries and Shrieks were heard, as if Hell had been broke looſe, blazing Lights oft aſhed in the Eyes of the new-married Pair, s they lay entwined in each other's Arms, ollowed with a dreadful Cry, *Thou art mine ead or alive.* This made them haſtily reove to the Huſband's Houſe ſome Miles diſant; but the ſame purſued them, and wherever ſhe went ſhe thought the Spirit of Bateman appeared to her, holding the broken Gold in a String, and upbraiding her with he Breach of Faith. The Curtains were often rawn violently when they were in Bed, and he former Cry continued, till at laſt, ſhe roving with Child, the Spirit came in a ore furious Manner, to bid her prepare to

go

go with him as ſoon as ſhe was delivered; which, weary of her life, ſtretching out Arms, ſhe cried, *I am thine by Right, and ready to go along with thee.*

No, replied he, *the innocent babe in Womb protects thee, that I cannot have t till thou art delivered.*

Thus ſhe continued in Sorrow and Fe having many Divines to pray with her; it availed not, for the Time of her Delive being come, which ſhe deſired might be p longed, her Mother and divers other Wom watched with her, which ſhe earneſtly begg of to pray, and not by any means to fall ſleep: However, a ſudden Drowſineſs abo Midnight, in ſpite of all they could do, ov came them, till wakened with a dreadful C they found the Candles out, and feeling the Child-bed Woman ſhe was miſſing, t Caſement being burſt in Pieces, and a ſtro Smell of Sulphur felt in the Room. T Town's People affirmed they heard great Cr and Shrieks in the Air, accompanied wit Clap of Thunder and a Clap of Lightning bout that Time: However, ſhe was ne after heard on, tho' much ſought for.

FINIS.